



● This Month's Question of the Month

If an administrator or electrician fails to renew their certificate within ____ days they must retest and pass the exam before being allowed to renew. A) 30 B) 60 C) 90 D) 120 – See the correct answer on page 2.

● Note From The Chief

The Electrical Program is responding to contractor and consumer requests by adding two members to the E-CORE compliance team. New team member Rand Jones (206-515-2773) will be primarily working Regions 1 & 2 – King County and north. A second position will be working primarily in Region 5 – central Washington from Oregon to Canada. The E-CORE team is very effective in reducing the effects of the underground economy, eliminate fraud, improve the economic vitality of business and individuals, improve the electrical safety of people and property, and increase awareness of the underground economy's negative impact on consumers and businesses; but, there is always more work for them.

● Electrical Board Recruitment – Applications Due Before February 1, 2011

Four Electrical Board positions are due for re-appointment by the Governor on July 7, 2011, and one electrician position is now vacant. We are seeking applications from: two electrical contractors, two electricians, and one electrical manufacturer. Contractor candidates must be an owner, member of a firm, or represent an electrical contractors' association. Electrician candidates must be a certified electrician and not have ownership in an electrical contracting business. The manufacturer candidate must represent an electrical manufacturer or an electrical manufacturing association.

The re-appointed positions have a four year term and the vacancy will serve until July 7, 2014. Applications should be submitted to the Governor. Supporting recommendations and information should be mailed to the Governor's office. Board information and applications are available on the Governor's website at:

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/default.asp>

● WAC Rule Update

On November 17, 2010, the Governor signed Executive Order, 10-06. The order suspends non-critical rule development and adoption until December 31, 2011. The order and the guidelines from the Governor's Executive Policy Office recognized the benefits of a stable regulatory environment.

House Bill 2546 passed during the 2010 Legislative session. It increases the required classroom education hours an electrical trainee must have in order to renew their electrical training certificate. The department is required to adopt rules in order to implement HB 2546 by July 1, 2011. Before the Executive Order was signed, the Electrical Program opened the electrical rule for proposed changes. The program developed proposals and also received several proposals from stakeholders. After carefully evaluating each of these proposals, L&I has determined that none meet the Executive Policy Office's guidelines for moving forward with a critical rule change. Rulemaking for WAC 296-46B will proceed, but will be limited to the implementation of HB 2546.

● Split System HVAC Equipment

Because of energy conservation concerns and new equipment technology, HVAC contractors are installing more and more split system HVAC units. The systems that are being manufactured meet the intent of the National Electrical Code (NEC); but, not necessarily the letter of the code. In order to better align current industry standards, equipment manufacturing processes, and the NEC, L&I inspectors will accept the following variances from the NEC.

- In one and two-family dwellings units, a disconnecting means is not required for the indoor unit(s) of a split system HVAC/R system if:
 - An indoor disconnecting means is not required by the manufacturer;
 - The indoor unit(s) is exclusively powered from the outdoor unit; and

Safety Tip of the Month!

Plan every job and think about what could go wrong.

Use the right tools for the job.

Think safety. Live Safely!

- The outside unit's disconnecting means is lockable and identifies the location of the indoor unit.
- For split system installations, Type TC cable may be used in any location allowed for nonmetallic-sheathed cable in NEC 334 if all the installation requirements in NEC 336 and 334 and WAC 296-46B-334 are met.

● Field Evaluations & Temporary Power For Equipment Testing

It is not uncommon for electrical inspectors to find equipment that has not been listed by an approved electrical testing laboratory. When unlisted equipment is found, the inspector will issue a correction notice to the installer. The equipment must not be operated until the inspection is approved.

The owner or installer must contract directly with an approved electrical testing laboratory or for industrial equipment as allowed in WAC 296-46B-903 an approved engineer to get the equipment approved and labeled. You can find a list of all approved laboratories and engineers at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/Install/default.asp>

In an effort to expedite the equipment evaluation process, approved testing laboratories and engineers may immediately begin the evaluation process without requesting permission from L&I. Laboratories and engineers no longer need to request permission to perform field evaluations or engineer reviews. Except for the owner's final report, no reports are necessary. The equipment may only be operated temporarily as necessary to allow completion of the evaluation process. When the laboratory or engineer approval label is placed on the equipment:

- The laboratory or engineer will send the final evaluation report to the equipment owner within 30 days; and
- The installer may request a re-inspection to remove the correction notice so that the equipment can be operated on a permanent basis.

During the re-inspection, the inspector may post a correction and make a referral to the laboratory or engineer if a problem with the equipment is noted.

● When Is A Permit Refundable? How Much?

WAC 296-46B-901(12) restricts refunds. The WAC says no refund is allowed for any permit:

- That is expired;
- Where the work has begun; or
- Where an inspection request has been made.

This can be a problem for individuals or contractors who begin the work and, for some reason, do not finish all the permitted work after obtaining the permit. It can also be a problem for those who mistakenly buy a permit in L&I's jurisdiction when the work is actually being done in a city that does their own inspections. L&I allows permit refunds based upon the intent of the WAC and good judgment that does not penalize the permit purchaser. Save yourself and L&I time and money! When buying your electrical permit, make sure you are buying it from the correct inspection jurisdiction.

A refund will be allowed for a permit where:

- The work has begun; but, an inspection request has not been made – \$25 of the permit fee will be retained to cover the cost of the refund;
- The work has begun and a first inspection request has been made – \$25 of the permit fee will be retained to cover the cost of processing the refund. If the work is in a city jurisdiction and an L&I inspector goes to the site, a dollar amount equal to the portal to portal cost of the first inspection will be withheld in addition to the \$25 processing cost; or
- The work has begun and a refund request has been made after an L&I inspection has been made – \$25 of the permit fee will be retained to cover the cost of processing the refund. If the work has been ongoing and a previous inspection(s) has been made, a dollar amount equal to the fee line(s) amount for all the work inspected, partial or complete, will be withheld in addition to the \$25 processing cost.

● Answer to This Month's Question of the Month:

C) 90 days. (See RCW 19.28.061(4) and RCW 19.28.211(2).)